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USDA in cooperation with the PA Department of Agriculture - - - - providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture

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Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Keystone_Ag_Digest/index.asp

USDA to Survey Pennsylvania Farmers

Pennsylvania farmers will be asked to participate in a nationwide survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in early June. Information gleaned from the survey will be used to estimate 2006 crop acreage and mid-year livestock inventories. The Pennsylvania office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is operated jointly by USDA and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Farmer cooperation is necessary to provide reliable crop and livestock information. USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board will release national and state reports based on the information in late June.

Results of this survey will provide farmers, agri-businesses, policymakers and other users of agricultural data with the information vital for planning and decision making. All information concerning individuals is CONFIDENTIAL and will be used in developing the state and national estimates.

ANNUAL POULTRY PRODUCTION

The combined value of Pennsylvania poultry production in 2005 was \$683.7 million, down 12 percent from the \$778.0 million in 2004. Egg production accounted for 31.3 percent of the total value, broiler production was 52.4 percent of the total, turkey production accounted for 16.2 percent, and the value of mature chickens sold (excluding broilers) accounted for less than 1 percent of the total value.

Total egg production for 2005 was valued at \$214.2 million, down 37 percent from \$339.7 million one year earlier. During the year, 6,608 million eggs were produced, 23 million eggs fewer than in 2004. Prices for all eggs sold, including hatching eggs, averaged 38.9 cents per dozen during the year, compared to 61.9 cents per dozen in 2004.

Broiler production during 2005 was valued at \$357.9 million, up 10 percent from the previous year. A total of 147.3 million broilers were produced in 2005, up 10 percent from 2004. The average price received by producers

in 2005 was 45.0 cents per pound live weight, compared to 46.0 cents per pound received a year earlier.

Turkey producers raised 11.5 million poult during 2005, down 4 percent from the previous year. The value of turkey production in 2005, at \$111.0 million, was 5 percent less than in 2004. Producers received an average of 49 cents per pound live weight during the year, up 1 cent per pound from 2004.

Mature chickens sold (excluding broilers) in 2005 were valued at \$579,000, 22 percent more than the previous year. A total of 17.0 million mature chickens were sold during the year, 13 percent more than in 2004. Prices for mature chickens averaged 1.0 cents per pound live weight compared to 0.9 cents in 2004.

Nationally, the combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2005 was \$28.2 billion, down 2 percent from the \$28.9 billion in 2004. Of the combined total, 74 percent was from broilers, 14 percent from eggs, 11 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2005 was \$20.9 billion, up 2 percent from 2004. The total number of broilers produced in 2005 was 8.87 billion, up 1 percent from 2004. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2005 was 47.9 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2004. The 2005 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 43.6 cents per pound, compared with 44.6 cents in 2004.

Value of all egg production in 2005 was \$4.04 billion, down 24 percent from the \$5.30 billion in 2004. Egg production totaled 90.0 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 89.1 billion eggs produced in 2004. In 2005, all eggs averaged 53.9 cents per dozen, compared with 71.4 cents in 2004.

The value of turkeys produced during 2005 was \$3.23 billion, up 5 percent from the \$3.07 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2005 totaled 7.21 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the 7.30 billion pounds produced in 2004. The average price received by producers during 2005 was 44.9 cents per pound, compared with 42.0 cents in 2004.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2005 was \$64.6 million, up 12 percent from the \$57.6 million a year ago. Prices averaged 6.5 cents per pound, compared with 5.8 cents in 2004. The number of chickens sold in 2005 totaled 193 million, up 1 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, APRIL 2006

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Apr 2005	Mar 2006	Apr 2006 ¹	Apr 2005	Mar 2006	Apr 2006 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	2.37	2.49	2.60	2.00	2.06	2.11
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.27	3.82	3.91
Oats	Bu.	1.99	2.41	2.15	1.65	1.81	1.72
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.26	2.71	2.67
Soybeans ²	Bu.	-	-	-	6.03	5.57	5.39
Hay, Dry All	Ton	124.00	138.00	138.00	99.40	97.10	106.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	146.00	174.00	177.00	105.00	100.00	110.00
Dry Other	Ton	109.00	132.00	131.00	81.60	86.60	93.20
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.175 ₆	.240 ₆	.230 ₆	.173	.256	.247
Potatoes	Cwt.				6.20	8.21	8.66
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	55.30	49.80	49.80	57.00	49.50	48.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	89.60	84.70	80.90	98.10	93.00	89.70
Calves	Cwt.	135.00	138.00	139.00	141.00	138.00	136.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	48.10	41.10	37.30	51.50	43.20	39.60
Sows	Cwt.	40.60	33.50	27.50	41.50	34.10	28.80
Eggs ³	Doz.	.260	.450	.300	.268	.499	.318
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	16.60	14.80	-	15.20	12.60	12.20
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	14.70	11.00	-	14.70	11.50	11.40
All	Cwt.	16.60	14.80	14.10	15.20	12.60	12.10
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	1,700.00	-	1,800.00	1,770.00	-	1,770.00

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Feb., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. ⁶ Monthly price for potatoes discontinued in 2005.

PRICES PAID FOR FUELS AND FEED, APRIL 2005-2006

Commodity	Unit	Northeast Region ¹		United States	
		April 2005	April 2006	April 2005	April 2006
<i>Dollars</i>					
Fuels:					
Gasoline, Service Station (Unleaded).....	Gal.	2.19	2.56	2.205	2.574
Gasoline, Bulk Delivery (Unleaded).....	Gal.	2.20	2.60	2.225	2.597
Diesel, Bulk Delivery	Gal.	2.02	2.35	1.968	2.275
L.P. Gas, Bulk Delivery.....	Gal.	1.90	2.20	1.466	1.690
Feed:					
Alfalfa Meal	Cwt.	17.60	19.00	15.40	16.40
Alfalfa Pellets	Cwt.	18.20	19.50	15.20	16.40
Bran	Cwt.	14.60	15.50	15.00	16.10
Beef Cattle Concentrate, 32-36%	Ton	287.00	349.00	316.00	336.00
Corn Meal	Cwt.	9.88	11.20	9.57	10.10
Cottonseed Meal, 41%	Cwt.	13.40	18.40	17.20	18.20
Dairy Feed, 16%	Ton	190.00	207.00	197.00	210.00
18%.....	Ton	202.00	217.00	206.00	221.00
20%.....	Ton	207.00	231.00	206.00	226.00
32%.....	Ton	309.00	331.00	331.00	341.00
Hog Feed, 14-18%	Ton	262.00	290.00	219.00	228.00
38-42%.....	Ton	390.00	423.00	398.00	361.00
Molasses, Liquid	Cwt.	14.30	20.00	14.80	17.90
Poultry Feed, Broiler Grower	Ton	294.00	250.00	237.00	255.00
Chick Starter.....	Ton	263.00	274.00	268.00	273.00
Laying Feed.....	Ton	207.00	237.00	226.00	240.00
Turkey Grower.....	Ton	253.00	259.00	315.00	302.00
Soybean Meal, 44%	Cwt.	16.00	18.30	16.10	16.90
Stock Salt.....	50 Lb.	6.42	6.06	4.78	4.67
Trace Mineral Blocks.....	50 Lb.	6.79	6.90	5.52	5.68

¹ Northeast region: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

APRIL FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASED 1 POINT FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 115, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from March. The Crop Index is up 11 points (9.3 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 6 points (5.5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and strawberries. Lower prices were received for broilers, cattle, eggs, and hogs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of strawberries, cattle, sweet corn, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and hogs. Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 6 points (5.0 percent) from April 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 117, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from last month but decreased 8 points (6.4 percent) from April 2005.

PRICES PAID INDEX UP 1 POINT

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 147 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1 point (0.7 percent) from March and 7 points (5.0 percent) above April 2005. Higher prices in April for field crop seeds, hay & forages, feeder cattle, legume & grass seed, and feed grains more than offset lower prices for feeder pigs, milk cows, insecticides, diesel fuel, and trucks. Fuels: The April index, at 244, is unchanged from a month earlier but 16 percent above April 2005. Compared with last month, prices are higher for LP gas but lower for diesel fuel. Feed: The April index, at 123, increased 0.8 percent from March and increased 6.0 percent from last April. Since March, higher prices for hay & forages and feed grains account for most of the rise in the index.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 31, 2006

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 3,177,000 bushels on March 31, 2006, compared to 2,660,000 bushels on March 31, 2005. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,192,000; Golden Delicious 839,000 bushels, and Rome with 618,000 bushels. Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 133,434,000 pounds

on March 31 2006, compared to 111,720,000 pounds on March 31, 2005. There were no pear stocks reported in cold storage on March 31, 2006.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2006 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, butter, beef, eggs, and cheese. Butter stocks were up 14 percent from last month and up 27 percent from a year ago. Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 3 percent from last month, but up 1 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 5 percent from last month and down 8 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 5 percent from last month, but down 17 percent from last year. Total frozen poultry supplies on March 31, 2006 were up slightly from the previous month and up 15 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 6 percent from the previous month, but up 29 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 18 percent from last month, but down 10 percent from March 31, 2005.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Mar 31, 2005	Feb 28, 2006	Mar 31, 2006
(000) Lbs.			
Butter.....	132,436	148,516	168,843
Cheese, Total Natural	749,228	770,990	808,766
Eggs, Frozen	18,548	24,388	20,840
Poultry, Total Frozen.....	1,088,879	1,246,368	1,249,988
Chicken.....	673,470	923,913	867,479
Turkeys.....	414,159	317,854	374,579
Fruits, Frozen.....	748,834	872,259	753,120
Fruit Juices, Frozen	1,896,430	1,363,499	1,321,389
Vegetables, Total Frozen	1,767,745	1,869,909	1,709,198
Potatoes, Total Frozen.....	1,093,666	1,147,080	1,159,285
Meats, Total Frozen	931,583	973,737	941,266
Beef, Total Frozen	372,323	428,296	422,995
Pork, Total Frozen	543,778	525,086	499,425

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, MARCH 2006

Variety	March 31, 2005					March 31, 2006				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	0	0	154	579	733	2	1	642	547	1,192
Stayman	5	2	26	0	33	2	3	5	0	10
Rome.....	2	43	360	325	730	2	40	237	339	618
Red Delicious.....	2	160	52	56	270	3	183	49	28	263
Golden Delicious...	1	75	227	170	473	3	189	358	289	839
Gala	0	2	1	3	6	1	25	0	0	26
McIntosh	1	2	0	11	14	1	3	0	0	4
Fuji.....	29	20	15	1	65	15	40	2	0	57
Other ²	10	61	115	150	336	8	33	38	89	168
Total	50	365	950	1,295	2,660	37	517	1,331	1,292	3,177

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified. n/p (not published) due to too few reports or insignificant volumes stored, these are included in the 'other' variety category.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006
Layers	Thous.	24,399	23,667	23,818	346,959	349,764	350,085
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,398	2,151	2,381	2,230	1,995	2,239
Eggs Produced	Million	585	509	567	7,738	6,977	7,837
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	5,201	4,269	5,019	41,701	33,665	38,918
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	14,870	12,976	14,202	816,552	733,145	817,068
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	23,376	23,296	24,674

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in **Pennsylvania** during March 2006 totaled 567 million eggs, down 3 percent from the 585 million eggs produced in March 2005. The total number of layers averaged 23.8 million during March, down 2 percent from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,381 eggs during the month, a decrease of 17 eggs from March 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2006 totaled 5.02 million, down 3 percent from the 5.20 million hatched the previous March. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.2 million during March 2006, down 4 percent from the 14.9 million hatched during the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.84 billion during March 2006, up 1 percent from last year's total during March. The total number of layers during March averaged 350 million, up 1 percent from the number of layers during the same month last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2239 eggs, up 9 eggs from the same month last year. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during March totaled 38.9 million, down 7 percent from March 2005. Broiler-type hatch totaled 817 million, up slightly from last year at this time. There were 24.7 million turkey poults placed in the United States during March 2006, up 6 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during March 2006 totaled 110.1 million pounds, up 13 percent from March

2005. Beef production, at 97.3 million pounds live weight, was up 17 percent from March 2005. Total head slaughtered was 77,100, up 12 percent. Live weight averaged 1,261 pounds, up 48 pounds from last year. Veal production was 6.6 million pounds live weight, up 23 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 15,300 head was up 11 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 41 pounds to 432 pounds. Pork production was 65.3 million pounds live weight, up 7 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 265,000, up 7 percent from March 2005. Average live weight is unchanged from last year at 246 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during March 2006 was 412,000 pounds live weight, down 34 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,200, down 36 percent. Average live weight increased 3 pounds to 98 pounds.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, MAR 2006

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Million pounds	110.1	4,111.7
Cattle	1,000 Head	77.1	2,852.4
	1,000 pounds live	97,258	3,630,357
Calves	1,000 Head	15.3	59.2
	1,000 pounds live	6,605	21,886
Hogs	1,000 Head	265.0	9,234.1
	1,000 pounds live	65,291	2,510,925
Sheep & Lambs	1,000 Head	4.2	249.7
	1,000 pounds live	412	36,327

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